St. Catherine of Siena

Feast Day: April 29th

Patron Saint of Fire Prevention, Bodily Ills, Nurses, Miscarriages, Europe and Italy

St. Catherine of Siena was born on March 25, 1347, in Siena, Italy, during the plague. She was the 25th child of Jacopo and Lapa Benincasa, though many of her siblings did not survive. From a young age, Catherine devoted her life to God. After her sister's death, her parents urged her to marry the widower, but she refused, cutting her hair and fasting to show her resolve.

Catherine joined the Third Order of St. Dominic, allowing her to live at home while dedicating herself to prayer and service. At age 21, she experienced a vision she called her "mystical marriage to Christ," symbolized by an invisible ring. This marked the beginning of her public mission to care for the poor, nurse the sick, and call people to repentance and faith.

Her deep holiness drew followers and leaders alike. Catherine wrote more than 400 letters to popes, rulers, and ordinary people, urging peace and reform in the Church. She played a key role in persuading Pope Gregory XI to return the papacy from Avignon to Rome in 1377.

Catherine also received the stigmata, though invisible to others, and wrote The Dialogue, one of the most important works of Catholic spirituality. Her extreme fasting led to illness, and she died in Rome at age 33 on April 29, 1380.

She was canonized in 1461 and named a Doctor of the Church in 1970 for her wisdom and influence. St. Catherine's feast day is April 29, and she is the patron saint of Italy, Europe, the United States, nurses, and those ridiculed for their faith. Her life remains a shining example of courage, holiness, and love for Christ.

Saint Attributes

- Lay Dominican habit
- Ring
- Lily
- Cerubim
- Crown of thorns
- Stigmata
- Crucifix
- Book

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